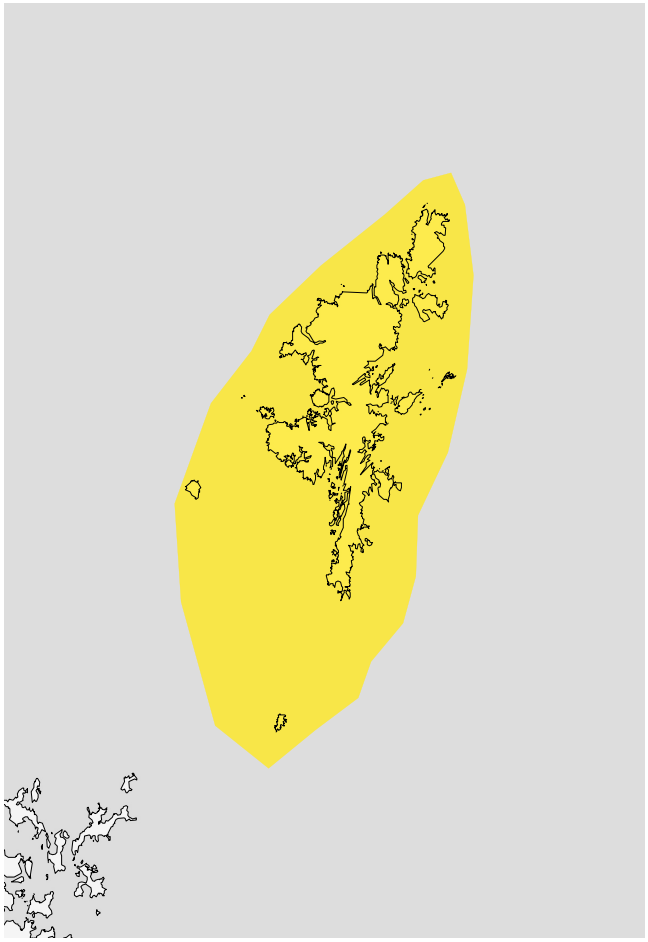
Yellow warning
Wind & Snow

Between
18:00 Wed 27 Dec 2023 and
06:00 Thu 28 Dec 2023



Strong winds and a period of sleet and snow associated with Storm Gerrit could bring disruption on Wednesday night into Thursday morning.

What to expect

- Road, air and ferry services may be affected, with longer journey times and cancellations possible
- Some roads and bridges may close
- Power cuts may occur, with the potential to affect other services, such as mobile phone coverage
- Some damage to buildings, such as tiles blown from roofs, could happen
- Injuries and danger to life could occur from large waves and beach material being thrown onto sea fronts, coastal roads and properties

Further details

A period of very strong easterly winds is likely across Shetland during Wednesday evening and night, these winds easing on Thursday morning. Gusts of 70-75 mph are likely and there is a small chance that gusts could reach 80-85 mph in places.

A period of heavy sleet and snow will also affect the islands, with blizzards and some drifting likely in the strong winds. A few cm could accumulate at low levels with 3-7 cm over higher ground. There is the potential for the build-up of ice on powerlines and some other structures.

Low likelihood of medium impacts

Issued at 11:46 Tue 26 Dec, 2023 Updated at 17:23 Wed 27 Dec, 2023

For enquiries regarding this warning please contact the Met Office Weather Desk
Phone: 0370 900 0100 **E-mail:** enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk
Visit: www.metoffice.gov.uk/premium/hazardmanager

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Further Details (continued)

What should I do?

Snowy, wintry weather can cause delays and make driving conditions dangerous, so to keep yourself and others safe: plan your route, checking for delays and road closures, amending your travel plans if necessary; if driving, leave more time to prepare and check your car before setting off; make sure you have essentials packed in your car in the event of any delays (warm clothing, food, water, a blanket, a torch, ice scraper/de-icer, a warning triangle, high visibility vest and an in-car phone charger).

Prepare to protect your property and people from injury. Check for loose items outside your home and plan how you could secure them. Items include; bins, garden furniture, trampolines, tents, sheds and fences.

People cope better with power cuts when they have prepared for them in advance. It's easy to do; consider gathering torches and batteries, a mobile phone power pack and other essential items.

If you are on the coast, stay safe during stormy weather by being aware of large waves. Even from the shore large breaking waves can sweep you off your feet and out to sea. Take care if walking near cliffs; know your route and keep dogs on a lead. In an emergency, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Be prepared for weather warnings to change quickly. When a weather warning is issued, the Met Office recommends staying up to date with the weather forecast in your area.

Reason for update

Start time brought forward with an increased likelihood of impacts, particularly from the winds.

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All regions & authorities affected

Orkney & Shetland

Shetland Islands

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